

20 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretariat, Economic Intelligence Committee
FROM : Secretary, EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture
SUBJECT : Annual Report for 1955-56.

A. Program of the EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture during 1955-56.

1. Review of the Intelligence Product and the Research Facilities Available for Producing Intelligence in the Subcommittees' Field of Competence.

During 1955-56 the Subcommittee and its working groups spent a considerable part of its time in appraising the state of agricultural economic intelligence research on the USSR. This more than usual concern resulted from a request by the Department of State for the EIC to take a new look at the Soviet agricultural situation. The EIC passed the request on to the Subcommittee on Agriculture.

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The Subcommittee agreed that the project -- "Policies, Performance and Prospects of Soviet Agriculture" would fill certain gaps in intelligence. It was further concluded that the research facilities and personnel available for producing this intelligence product were adequate. All agencies capable of contributing to this project, because of its intelligence potential, agreed to give it a top priority rating with respect to the allocation of time and personnel.

2. Programming of Research Priorities.

a. Priority Research Gaps that have been Identified by Subcommittee review:

- (1) Soviet Bloc production and utilization balances of various agricultural commodities. Including information on trade, consumption patterns and stockpiling.
- (2) Distribution and characteristics of crops by varieties and livestock by breeds.
- (3) Commercial and strategic reserves of selected products of agriculture and forestry.

b. Subcommittee action to fill these gaps and deficiencies.

The initiation of the State Department Project (A.1. above) will make a significant contribution to filling gaps (1) and (2) above, and may shed some light on gap number (3).

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3. Projects undertaken at the Request of the EIC.

Project EIC-P-12, the project initiated by the State Department is the only one requested by the EIC during 1955-56.

4. Discussion of Intelligence Research Techniques.

This subject was not dealt with formally by the Subcommittee during the past year.

5. Special Coordination Functions of the Subcommittee.

a. The pooling of information on Soviet crop production by specialists from the Departments of State and Agriculture, and from CIA was continued during the past year. This cooperation is resulting in the adoption of agreed estimates.

b. The Subcommittee as a whole has considered an exchange of experts with the USSR. The USSR proposes to send a two man delegation to this country to study the production of hybrid corn. The Subcommittee proposed that a two man delegation go to the USSR to observe crop conditions in the New Lands area and in the areas where corn production is being expanded. This exchange was also considered by a working group that coordinated the interests of CIA, US Department of Agriculture, and the Defense Department.

c. The Secretary of the Agricultural Subcommittee served as Secretary of an ad hoc committee composed of representatives of the EIC agencies on a delegation exchange with the USSR to observe chemical fertilizer and insecticide production and utilization.

B. Future Program of the Subcommittee.

No changes in the structure or in the functioning of the Subcommittee on agriculture are contemplated for 1956-57.

be The Subcommittee should continue to identify gaps in research and collection, approve external research projects, and serve as a coordinating body for all agencies and departments having responsibilities in food and agriculture. The Subcommittee should also ~~serve as a watch committee~~ alert to indications of overt activities or situations in the field of food and agriculture throughout the world which could adversely affect the security of the US.

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Secretary
EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture